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Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i).

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. This preliminary amendment amends claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, and deletes claims 2 and 6 without prejudice. In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the recited feature of "the output port selector balancing load across the trunks of a composite trunk according to selectable weights." Similarly, independent claim 5 has been amended to include the recited feature of "the trunk being selected according to selectable weights to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk." Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 5 may be found in the specification at least on page 8, line 25 through page 9, line 27.

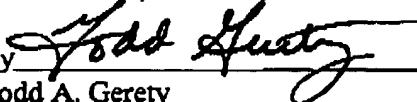
Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to include the features of claim 1 as originally filed. Claim 3 has also been amended to clarify that the output port selector "dynamically selects an output port for a packet from a composite port to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk." Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include the features of claim 5 as originally filed. Claim 7 has also been amended to clarify that the trunk is "dynamically selected to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk." Support for the amendments to claims 3 and 7 may be found in the specification at least on page 9, lines 19 through 27. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

#### CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1, 3-5, and 7-10 are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 

Todd A. Gerety

Registration No. 51,729

Telephone: (978) 341-0036

Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

1. (Amended) A network router comprising:
  - a plurality of trunk ports, including a composite port of plural ports to plural trunks which serve as a composite trunk to a common destination;
  - a routing fabric for transfer of data packets between trunk ports; and
  - an output port selector which selects an output port for a packet from a composite port, the output port selector balancing load across the trunks of a composite trunk according to selectable weights.
3. (Amended) A network router [as claimed in Claim 1 wherein] comprising:
  - a plurality of trunk ports, including a composite port of plural ports to plural trunks which serve as a composite trunk to a common destination;
  - a routing fabric for transfer of data packets between trunk ports; and
  - an [the] output port selector which dynamically selects an output port for a packet from a composite port to balance [balances] load across the trunks of a composite trunk.
5. (Amended) A method of routing packets in a network comprising:
  - identifying a destination of the packets;
  - selecting one of plural trunks forming a composite trunk to the destination, the trunk being selected according to selectable weights to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk; and
  - forwarding the packets toward the destination on the selected trunk.
7. (Amended) A method [as claimed in Claim 5 wherein] of routing packets in a network comprising:
  - identifying a destination of the packets;
  - selecting one of plural trunks forming a composite trunk to the destination, the trunk [is] being dynamically selected to [dynamically] balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk; and
  - forwarding the packets toward the destination on the selected trunk.